

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ANKARA 01786 091436Z

ACTION NODS-00

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FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 969

S E C R E T ANKARA 1786

NODIS

FOR NIMETZ AND VEST

E.O. 11652: XGDS-3

TAGS: PEPR, MASS, GR, TU

SUBJECT: CONGRESSIONAL LETTER RE SECURITY ASSISTANCE FOR
GREECE AND TURKEY

REF: A) ANKARA 1760, B) STATE 059248

1. ALTHOUGH I ASSUME THIS POINT WILL HAVE OCCURRED TO YOU, THE LETTER FROM THE 19 CONGRESSMEN (REFTEL B), WHICH IS BEING WIDELY REPORTED IN TURKISH PRESS THIS MORNING, WILL REINFORCE GROWING SUSPICIONS HERE THAT IT IS NOT SO MUCH THE CONGRESS AS THE ADMINISTRATION WHICH HAS BECOME THE MAJOR OBSTACLE TO ACTION ON THE DCA. WHAT APPEARS TO BE ADMINISTRATION'S TERGIVERSATIONS WILL BE ATTRIBUTED BY TURKS LESS TO ITS UNCERTAINTIES ABOUT ITS ABILITY TO PREVAIL IN THE CONGRESS, AS IT WILL TO VIEW THAT ADMINISTRATION IN FACT ACCEPTS "LINKAGE" AND HAS BEEN PLAYING CARROT ANDYSTICK GAME WITH THE TURKS BY MANIPULATION OF HEARING DATES. FACT THAT CONGRESSIONAL LETTER WAS DATED FEB. 14 (A POINT WHICH HAS NOT YET SURFACED IN TURKISH PRESS) AND THUS WAS PRESUMABLY AVAILABLE TO US PRIOR TO NIMETZ VISIT BUT WAS UNMENTIONED BY HIM, OR EMBASSY COULD INTENSIFY THIS VIEW WHEN AND IF QUESTION OF DATES IS NOTED.

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WM I AM CONCERNED THAT AS IMMEDIATE RESULT TURKISH WILLINGNESS TO COOPERATE IN GIVING US A DETAILED BRIEFING ON THEIR CYPRUS PROPOSALS BEFORE THE SECURITY ASSISTANCE HEARINGS, AS WELL AS THEIR MORE FUNDAMENTAL ATTITUDES TOWARD THE U.S. ADMINISTRATION, MAY BE AFFECTED. THE TURKS SEEM TO ME TO BE TAKING AN OMINOUSLY "CALM" APPROACH TO THIS

SUBJECT: IF THE US DECIDES TO MOVE AHEAD ON THE DCA, WELL AND GOOD. IF WE DO NOT, TURKEY WILL HAVE TO DRAW THE APPROPRIATE CONCLUSIONS AND MAKE THE FUNDAMENTAL REASSESSMENT OF ITS NATIONAL INTERESTS THAT A GROWING NUMBER OF TURKS SEEM TO ADVOCATE. THE CHOICE IS STRICTLY UP TO THE U.S. WE WILL SOON REACH THE POINT AT WHICH, IF AND WHEN THE DCA IS PASSED, THE CREDIT WILL GO MORE TO THE CONGRESS THAN TO THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH, AND THE VIEW HERE WILL BE THAT THIS TOOK PLACE IN SPITE OF, RATHER THAN BECAUSE OF, THE ADMINISTRATION'S EFFORTS. THIS COULD AFFECT SPIRIT OF FUTURE RELATIONSHIP, POST-DCA, BETWEEN US.

3. AS USUAL WITH THE TURKS, THIS VIEW WILL REFLECT A LACK OF SOPHISTICATION ABOUT THE AMERICAN POLITICAL PROCESSES AS WELL AS THE INORDINATE SUSPICIONS ABOUT OUR TRUE AIMS WHICH HAVE BEEN BUILT UP SINCE 1976 ELECTION CAMPAIGN. WE UNDERSTAND THAT ESENBEL HAS REPORTED CONGRESSMAN SOLARZ'S WILLINGNESS TO COME TO ANKARA IF AND AS SOON AS ADMINISTRATION CLEARLY STATES ITS SUPPORT FOR DCA. TURKS WILL PROBABLY WISH TO INVITE HIM WHEN HE IS IN A POSITION TO ACCEPT, AND THEIR INABILITY TO DO SO MAY FURTHER DISTURB OUR RELATIONSHIP HERE.

4. I BELIEVE AN EARLY REPLY FROM SECRETARY TO MESSAGE IN REFTEL A WILL BE IMPORTANT IN DEALING WITH THIS PROBLEM.

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